

**TOWN OF GRANBY
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
MAY 7, 2012**

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by First Selectman John Adams at 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT: John Adams, B. Scott Kuhnly, Sally King, Mark Neumann, and William F. Smith, Jr., Town Manager and Student Liaison Nicole Kuhnly

I. PUBLIC SESSION

No public addressed the Board.

II. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING

ON A MOTION by Selectman Kuhnly, seconded by Selectman King, the Board voted, 3-0-1 (abstention Selectman Neumann) to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 16, 2012.

III. UNFINISHED OR TABLED BUSINESS

A. Ordinance Limiting Commercial Motor Vehicles on Town Streets

Town Manager Smith reported Chief Rosensweig is still doing traffic counts. He hopes to have recommendations soon.

IV. BUSINESS

A. Resignations and Appointments to be Considered

No resignations were received.

ON A MOTION by Selectman Neumann, seconded by Selectman Kuhnly, the Board voted unanimously (4-0-0) to reappoint Peter Barwick (U) to the Commission on Aging. His term will expire January 13, 2014.

ON A MOTION by Selectman Neumann, seconded by Selectman Kuhnly, the Board voted unanimously (4-0-0) to reappoint Incy Muir (U) to the Commission on Aging. Her term will expire January 13, 2014.

ON A MOTION by Selectman Neumann, seconded by Selectman Kuhnly, the Board voted unanimously (4-0-0) to reappoint Deborah Sheahan (U) to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission. Her term will expire January 11, 2016.

ON A MOTION by Selectman Neumann, seconded by Selectman Kuhnly, the Board voted unanimously (4-0-0) to reappoint Wayne Cahoon (U) to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission. His term will expire January 11, 2016.

ON A MOTION by Selectman King, seconded by Selectman Neumann, the Board voted unanimously (4-0-0) to appoint Erin Pirro (U), 85 Wells Road, to the

Agricultural Commission to fill a vacancy created by Anne Wilhelm. Her term will expire January 12, 2015.

B. Consideration of Transfers to Suspense

Town Manager Smith reported that each year taxes due the town go unpaid, (uncollected) for various reasons, like people moving away, property foreclosures, undeliverable mail, and deaths. The Tax Collector prepares a list of potentially uncollectible taxes, which is recommended to be transferred to the Suspense Book to clean off the books for audit purposes. The amount to be transferred is \$19,872.80. Once action is taken, Town Manager Smith will forward a copy to the Board of Finance for their information.

Taxes due on the list remain collectible if the parties can be found. In most instances, collections are made sooner or later.

ON A MOTION by Selectman King, seconded by Selectman Neumann, the Board voted unanimously (4-0-0) to approve the transfer of \$19,872.80 to be moved to the Suspense Book.

C. Consideration of Granby Water Pollution Control Authority (GWPCA) Setting Sewer Use Rates for 2012-13

ON A MOTION by Selectman Kuhnly, seconded by Selectman King, the Board voted unanimously (4-0-0) to reorder the agenda, placing item IV. C. to be discussed after Item IV. D. and the Public Hearing, which is scheduled for 7:45 p.m.

The following is here for ease of reading but actually took place after Item D.

ON A MOTION by First Selectman Adams, seconded by Selectman Kuhnly, the Board voted unanimously (4-0-0) to recess as the Board of Selectmen and convene as the Granby Water Pollution Control Authority (GWPCA) at 7:43 p.m.

The Granby Water Pollution Control Authority held a public hearing at 7:45 p.m. to receive comments on the proposed sewer rates for Fiscal Year 2012-2013. No verbal or written comments were received.

ON A MOTION by Selectman King, seconded by Selectman Kuhnly, the GWPCA voted unanimously (5-0-0) to set the sewer use rates for residential users at a minimum of \$150.00 per year for the cost of the average residential gallons used per year (55,000 gallons); commercial/industrial users will be charged a minimum of \$210.00 per unit for up to 100,000 gallons used per year. All gallon usage (residential and commercial/industrial) above the minimum will be charged \$.0049 per gallon.

Town Manager Smith added as comments that our rates continue to be extremely low as compared to surrounding areas. The 20% increase is a result of certain repairs that had to be done at the Wolcott Street pump station in Simsbury at a cost of \$30,000 per year and also, retaining our relationship with Simsbury as we are now 10% owners of the Simsbury plant at a cost of \$116,000 annually for bond payments for many years out. The new users from Canton Road will also assist.

ON A MOTION by First Selectman Adams, seconded by Selectman Kuhnly, the Board voted unanimously (4-0-0) to adjourn as the GWPCA at 7:48 p.m. and reconvene as the Board of Selectmen at 7:49 p.m.

D. Consideration of Chamber of Commerce Celebrate Granby 2012

The Granby Chamber of Commerce would like to hold their celebration festivities for Celebrate Granby 2012 on September 22, 2012. On behalf of the Chamber of Commerce, the Park and Recreation Board requests permission to close Salmon Brook Park to all other activities and use it for the festivities. Also, they would like to close just the main field (south soccer) to activities on Friday and Sunday so that tents can be set up and removed. They have also requested a special permit for limited use of alcohol to allow liquor stores to do sample tasting at the event. This has been done in the past and it has been very successful.

ON A MOTION by Selectman Kuhnly, seconded by Selectman King, the Board voted unanimously (4-0-0) to close Salmon Brook Park to all program activities, including practices or games by Little League, Lacrosse, and Rovers on Saturday, September 22, 2012. It is understood that the main field at the Park will be closed to activities on Friday (September 21, 2012) and Sunday (September 22, 2012) for the set up and breakdown of the Chamber of Commerce "Celebrate Granby" event. A special permit for the use of alcohol is also requested during the event from 12 noon until 8 p.m.

First Selectman Adams announced a free Veterans luncheon will take place at the Granby Senior Center on May 16, 2012. For reservations call 860-844-5350.

Also, the Memorial Day Parade will be on Monday, May 28, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. Honorary Marshall is William S. Hart, and the speaker is David Schupp.

E. Briefing with Holcomb Farm, Inc.

Jenny Emery, Consultant for Holcomb Farm, Inc., indicated she has the task of bringing Holcomb Farm together with the Town of Granby to reach some kind of agreement through a Memo of Understanding, as to how the farm will continue to run and who is responsible for things. Details are still being worked out for the final Memo of Understanding to be completed. She then turned things over to the outgoing Chairman Bill Bentley.

Mr. Bentley recapped conclusions reached by the Steering Committee. Holcomb Farm is a town treasure that has been graciously stewarded for twenty years by Holcomb Farm, Inc. Their plan of use stills remains relevant, the promotion of education, agriculture, arts, and passive recreation. What has changed, is the financial resources. The Link and Learn Grant that had pretty much sustained the farm and its programs, is no longer available, not just to Holcomb Farm but nationwide. The restructuring of the relationship between the town and Holcomb Farm, Inc. will provide a foundation for sustaining current and expanding future community uses of Holcomb Farm.

Incoming Chairman Bob Bystrowski reviewed the structure for the new relationship. The town, being the owner, has the ultimate authority and responsibility for the facilities and community programming. Holcomb Farm, Inc. was organized for the purpose of stewarding the Holcomb Farm and its mission, in cooperation with the town, through use of the land consistent with the plan of use and through fundraising. Holcomb Farm currently oversees operations of a CSA ("an operating New England Farm"), and raises funds for and distributes food through a very successful program called Fresh Access.

Town Manager Smith thanked Jill Ford for working at the desk and always being available. The Department of Public Works is gaining progress on operations and things are coming together. The town's goal is to not lose programs but gain more programs to help make it sustainable, so we don't have to use tax dollars to keep the farm going. Just because the town owns the farm doesn't mean it is free. There is a cost to maintain the farm. We are hoping for a smooth transition and a successful operation. First Selectman Adams commented this should bring everyone together to make it work better. It's a new beginning.

Ms. Ford thanked the Lost Acres Fire Department for their help during some events at the farm. With the absence of a sprinkler system, the fire department is required to be on site during a loft concert event. The next scheduled concert is May 18, 2012. For more information go to their website at www.holcombfarm.org.

There are also other programs now available including Chi Gong/Yoga on Tuesday mornings and afternoons and a 0-4 year old drop in program. More will be coming in the future.

Selectman Kuhnly commented Holcomb Farm is such a treasure and because of all the volunteers it is a success.

First Selectman Adams announced there would be an open workshop with the public on June 4, 2012 before the next Board of Selectmen meeting in regards to the restructuring of Holcomb Farm.

Resident Peggy Lareau is encouraging the purchase of membership to the farm as a way of sustaining the farm and indicated the importance of agriculture as a plan of use.

V. TOWN MANAGER REPORTS

No reports.

VI. FIRST SELECTMAN REPORTS (John Adams)

No reports.

VII. SELECTMAN REPORTS (Sally King, Vice Chairman, Ronald Desrosiers, B. Scott Kuhnly, and Mark Neumann, and Tyler Dowling and Nicole Kuhnly, Student Liaisons)

No reports.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

ON A MOTION by Selectman Kuhnly, seconded by Selectman Neumann, the Board voted unanimously (4-0-0) to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William F. Smith, Jr.
Town Manager